

This Page Is Inserted by IFW Operations
and is not a part of the Official Record

BEST AVAILABLE IMAGES

Defective images within this document are accurate representations of the original documents submitted by the applicant.

Defects in the images may include (but are not limited to):

- BLACK BORDERS
- TEXT CUT OFF AT TOP, BOTTOM OR SIDES
- FADED TEXT
- ILLEGIBLE TEXT
- SKEWED/SLANTED IMAGES
- COLORED PHOTOS
- BLACK OR VERY BLACK AND WHITE DARK PHOTOS
- GRAY SCALE DOCUMENTS

IMAGES ARE BEST AVAILABLE COPY.

**As rescanning documents *will not* correct images,
please do not report the images to the
Image Problem Mailbox.**



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/864,628	05/23/2001	Frederic Bauchot	FR920000049US1	2932

26502 7590 07/02/2004

IBM CORPORATION
IPLAW IQ0A/40-3
1701 NORTH STREET
ENDICOTT, NY 13760

EXAMINER

HUYNH, CONG LAC T

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2178

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 09/864,628	Applicant(s) BAUCHOT, FREDERIC	
	Examiner Cong-Lac Huynh	Art Unit 2178	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 May 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This action is responsive to communications: the application filed on 5/23/01, priority 10/24/00.
2. Claims 1-8 are pending in the case. Claim 1 is the independent claim.

Priority

3. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
5. Claims 3-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 3, which is dependent on claim 1, the claim states that:

- storing in **a table means**, preferably an address or a name for identifying said source range of cells (lines 5-6)
- associating in **said table** said first variable with **said means** for identifying said source range of cells (lines 7-8)

From the two steps, it appears that **said table** and **said means** are the same one – **the table means** - which does not make sense when associating the first variable with said means (or the table means) for identifying the source range of cells since the means or the table means is merely a storage of data. It is not the data to be associated with the first variable for identifying the source range of cells.

Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under the same issue.

Regarding claim 4, which is dependent on claim 1, it is unclear why to set the first variable associated with the **source range of cells** to a second value (lines 5-6). As mentioned in the specification (page 16), the second value referred as PATTERN_PASTE is set for a persistently cloned range of cells, which is the destination range of cells. Further, it is incorrect to set the second variable associated with *the destination range of cells* to a third value as claimed (lines 9-10). According to the specification, the third value referred to as PATTERN_COPY_BLINK is set for the persistently clonable range of cells, which is the source range of cells (specification, page 16).

6. Claim 7, which is dependent on claim 1, recites " wherein the step of *setting a value to a variable associated with a range of cells* further comprises the step of : displaying the range of cells according to the value of said variable" in lines 1-6. There

is insufficient antecedent basis for the "said variable" since the step of "setting a value to a variable ..." is not included in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Madsen et al. (US Pat No. 6,317,758 B1, 11/13/01, filed 2/20/98) in view of Toman, The Amazing Data Connection, Journal of Accountancy, New York, May 1994, vol. 17, pages 63-68.

Regarding independent claim 1, Madsen discloses:

- performing a persistent copy operation, said operation comprising the steps of
 - o selecting a source range of cells (col 6, lines 26-44: selecting a source cell means selecting a source range of cells since a source range of cells as mentioned in the preamble comprises one or a plurality of cells)
 - o copying the source reference range of cells onto a buffer (col 6, lines 26-44: after selecting the source cell 302, selecting the copy command to copy the source cell to the clipboard)
- performing a persistent paste operation, said operation comprising the steps of

Art Unit: 2178

- selecting one or a plurality destination range of cells (col 6, lines 26-44:
select a destination cell)

for each selected destination range of cells:

- copying the content of said buffer onto the selected destination range of cells (col 6, lines 26-44: use Paste command to copy the content in the clipboard to the selected destination cell)
- associating the source range of cells with the destination range of cells (col 7, line 56 to col 8, line 24: determining a change should be made when copying a source cell to a destination cell to convert the source cell address to a form appropriate to the destination cell; the conversion of the source cell address to the corresponding destination address for copying/pasting shows associating between the source range of cells and the destination range of cells)
- determining whether the source range of cells is associated with one or a plurality of destination range of cells (col 7, line 56 to col 8, line 24: determining a change should be made when copying a source cell to a destination cell implies determining the association of the source range of cells and the destination range of cells since the change would be made if there is such an association, otherwise, it wouldn't)

Madsen does not disclose:

- automatically performing a copy operation each time the source range of cells is updated, said operation comprising the steps of :

if the source range of cells is associated with one or a plurality of destination range of cells:

- o copying the source range of cells onto the one or plurality of associated destination range of cells

Toman discloses:

- automatically performing a copy operation each time the source range of cells is updated, said operation comprising the steps of :

if the source range of cells is associated with one or a plurality of destination range of cells:

- o copying the source range of cells onto the one or plurality of associated destination range of cells (pages 64, 65, 67: Data linking between spreadsheets or spreadsheet to another applications providing the capability to automatically update the data linked to every time the data in spreadsheet is updated; for example, the data in a spreadsheet can be copied and pasted into a memo, every time the data in spreadsheet is updated, the data in the memo is automatically updated; therefore, when the data in the source cell is updated, due to the data linking, the data in the destination cell, where the data is copied to, is automatically updated)

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to have combined Toman into Madsen since Toman discloses automatically updating the destination data when the source data in spreadsheet is updated due to the spreadsheet cell linking providing the advantage to apply to Madsen to update the

destination cell when the source cell is updated since the destination cell is linked to the source cell in copying and pasting operations.

Regarding claim 2, which is dependent on claim 1, Madsen discloses:

- associating a first variable with said source range of cell (col 8, lines 30-46: the cell name of the source cell 302 "B32" serves as the variable of the source cell)
- setting said first variable to a first value (col 8, lines 31-46: the original formula assigned to the source cell 302 is the first value for the first variable "B32")

Regarding claim 3, which is dependent on claim 1, Madsen discloses:

- storing in a table means, preferably an address or a name for identifying said source range of cells (col 8, lines 31-46: recording the addresses of the source cell and the destination cell in the fix memory indicates that the address of the source cell *is stored in the fix memory*, which is equivalent to a table means since a memory is an organized storage)
- associating in said table said first variable with said means for identifying said source range of cells (col 8, lines 25-46: the cell name "B32", which is served as a variable, of the source cell is stored in the fix memory, which is an organized storage, for identifying the source cell)

Regarding claim 4, which is dependent on claim 1, Madsen discloses:

- setting the first variable associated with the source range of cells to a second value (col 8, lines 30-46, the address or the cell name of the source cell 302 "B32" is considered as the variable of the source cell, and the fixed formula assigned to the source cell 302 is the second value for "B32")
- associating a second variable with said destination reference range of cells (col 8, lines 15-46: the name of the destination cell is stored in the fix memory as a second variable associated with the destination cell)
- setting the second variable associated with the destination range of cells to a third value (col 8, lines 30-46: the fixed formula is set as the third value for the second variable, which is the name of the destination range of cells when copying the source cell to the destination cell)
- associating the first variable associated with the source range of cells with the second variable associated with the destination range of cells (col 8, lines 30-46: the fact that the names, which can serve as variables, of the source cell and the destination cell are stored for applying the original formula and the fixed formula when copying the formula from the source cell to the destination cell shows that there is associating of the first variable associated with the source range of cells with the second variable associated with the destination range of cells)

Regarding claim 5, which is dependent on claim 4, Madsen discloses:

- storing in a table means, preferably an address or a name for identifying said destination range of cells (col 8, lines 31-46: recording the addresses of the

source cell and the destination cell in the fix memory indicates that the address of the source cell is stored in the fix memory, which is equivalent to a table means since a memory is an organized storage)

- associating in said table said second variable with said means for identifying said source range of cells (col 8, lines 25-46: the names of the source cell and the destination cell served as variables are stored in the fix memory, which is an organized storage, for identifying the source cell and the destination cell)

Regarding claim 6, which is dependent on claim 5, Madsen discloses:

- determining in said table whether said means for identifying the source range of cell is associated with means for identifying one or a plurality of destination range of cells (col 8, lines 31-46 and col 7, lines 56 to col 8, line 24: storing in said table means the names of the source cell and the destination cell for identifying the source cell and the destination cell as mentioned in claims 3 and 5, and determining whether the source cell is associated with the destination cell as mentioned in claim 1 suggest determining whether there is an association between said means for identifying the source range of cells with means for identifying the destination range of cells).

Regarding claim 7, which is dependent on claim 1, Madsen discloses displaying the range of cells according to the value of said variable (figure 3B, col 8, lines 32-46: the range of the source cell 302 ("B32") is displayed according to the original formula, which

is the value of the name of the source cell where said name serves as a variable, the range of destination cell 304 ("C32") is displayed according to the fixed formula, which is the value of the name of the destination cell where said name serves as a variable).

Regarding claim 8, which is dependent on claim 1, Madsen discloses that the step of performing a persistent copy operation comprises the step of:

- invoking a persistent copy command (col 6, lines 26-44: as mentioned in claim 1, since Madsen discloses the steps for performing a persistent copy operation as claimed, selecting the copy command in Madsen is considered equivalent to invoking a persistent copy command)
- invoking a persistent paste command (col 6, lines 26-44, col 7, line 56 to col 8, line 24: as mentioned in claim 1, since Madsen discloses the steps for performing a persistent paste operation as claimed, selecting the paste command in Madsen is considered equivalent to invoking a persistent paste command)

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Kanai (US Pat No. 5,339,410, 8/16/94).

Braude (US Pat No. 5,282,128, 1/25/94).

Khan et al. (US Pat No. 6,157,934, 12/5/00).

West et al. (US Pat No. 5,418,902, 5/23/95).

Comer et al. (US Pat No. 5,819,293, 10/6/98).

Graham et al. (US Pat No. 6,112,214, 8/29/00).

Alder et al. (US Pat No. 6,138,130, 10/24/00, filed 6/15/98).

Dinkelacker (US Pat No. 6,345,284 B1, 2/5/02, filed 6/6/97).

Aldred et al. (US Pat No. 6,610,102 B1, 8/26/03, filed 7/11/96).

Sorge et al. (US Pat No. 6,691,281 B1, 2/10/04, filed 6/15/99).

Phillips et al. (US Pub. No. 2002/0116348 A1, 8/22/02, filed 5/18/01).

KJAER et al. (US Pub. No. 2002/0091728 A1, 7/11/02, filed 12/6/95).

Toman, *The Amazing Data Connection*, Journal of Accountancy, New York, May 1994, vol. 177, Iss. 5, pages 63-68 (ProQuest database).

Anonymous, *Chart Noncontiguous Data in Quattro Pro*, Inside Corel WordPerfect Suite, Louisville, August 2000, vol. 6, Iss. 8, pages 12-13 (ProQuest database).

Savage, *Document That Spreadsheet!*, Management Accounting, Montvale, November 1991, vol. 73, Iss. 5, pages 52-57 (ProQuest database).

Matthews, *Excel for Windows 95*, Fifth Edition, Osborne McGraw-Hill, pages 150-152, 208-209.


Boyce et al., *Using Microsoft Office 97 Professional*, Que Corporation, pages 265-266, 268-269.

Halberg, *Using Microsoft Excel 97*, Que Corporation, pages 118-122, 587.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cong-Lac Huynh whose telephone number is 703-305-0432. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri (8:30-6:00).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Heather Herndon can be reached on 703-308-5186. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Cong-Lac Huynh
Examiner
Art Unit 2178
6/24/04